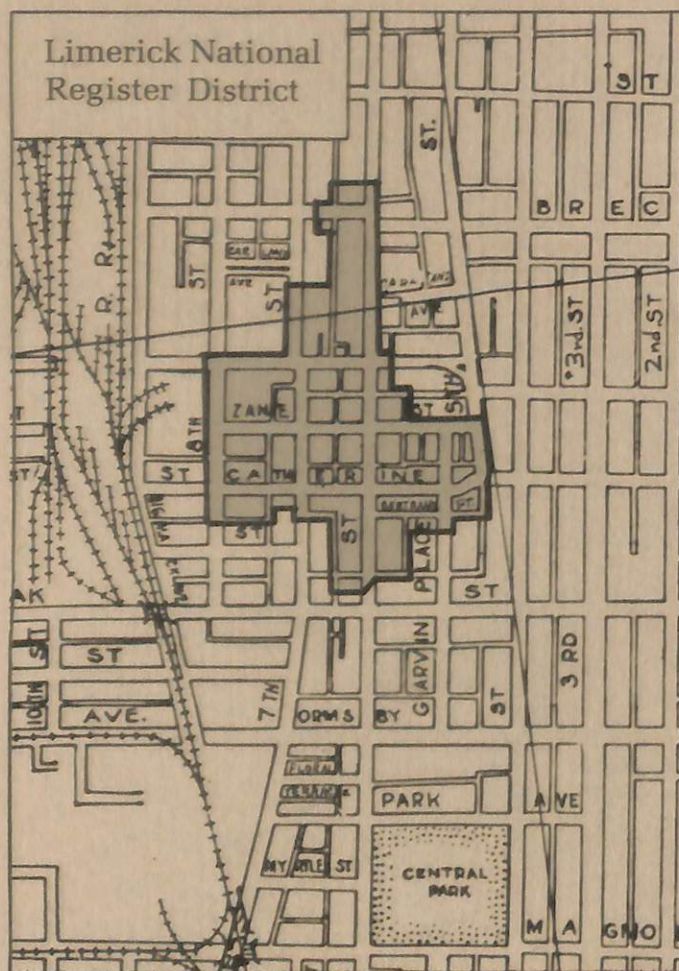




LIMERICK

Located directly northwest of Old Louisville, Limerick shares many of its characteristics. Particularly on West St. Catherine Street and South Sixth Street, the large, brick Victorian residences are comparable to many found in Old Louisville. What Limerick represents, unlike its neighboring community, is an ethnic history very special to Louisville. The Limerick Historic District is one of the few areas where history plays an equally significant role to architecture in its value to Louisville's heritage.



This corner structure is especially handsome in its upper stories but unfortunately the first floor has suffered greatly from a 1950s remuddling.



This Italianate residence has lost all architectural character due to the loss of its windows.



Limerick has many fine, large residences comparable to those found in Old Louisville that are prime for rehabilitation.

Apparent in its name, Limerick was an Irish residential enclave, established in the late nineteenth century when the country in general experienced the immigration of a large number of Irish. This was the area locally claimed by the Irish, due largely to its close proximity to the Louisville and Nashville Railroad yards where many were employed. No other neighborhood in Louisville is so closely identified with the Irish.

The ethnic heritage of Limerick is further enhanced by the recognition brought to it by the establishment of two important black educational institutions. The Central Colored School, later Mary D. Hill School, was the first tax-supported school for blacks in the state. It opened in 1873 and is still standing at Seventh and Kentucky Streets. State University, the first major higher educational institution for blacks in the state, opened in 1884 at Seventh and Zane Streets. Several buildings remain on the grassy square and are now used as a continuing-education center. Many of



This row of single-story brick shotgun houses shows a homogeneous section of the Limerick Historic District.

the modest residential structures on the western edge of Limerick are the last remnants of the working-class Irish and black populations which give this district its distinction. The more substantial structures on Sixth Street, Garvin Place, and St. Catherine are representative of the same Victorian architectural movement found in Russell, Old Louisville, parts of Cherokee Triangle and the Highlands.

The successful revitalization of Old Louisville is causing a spill-over effect in Limerick. The Neighborhood Development Corporation, a private non-profit housing corporation, has been responsible for much of the rehabilitation in Limerick. It continues to find innovative ways to attract investors in public/private ventures, largely through the investment tax credit. The recent development on the southern fringe of the central business district has also played a very important part in Limerick's identification as a secure neighborhood within which investments are ever more frequently occurring.